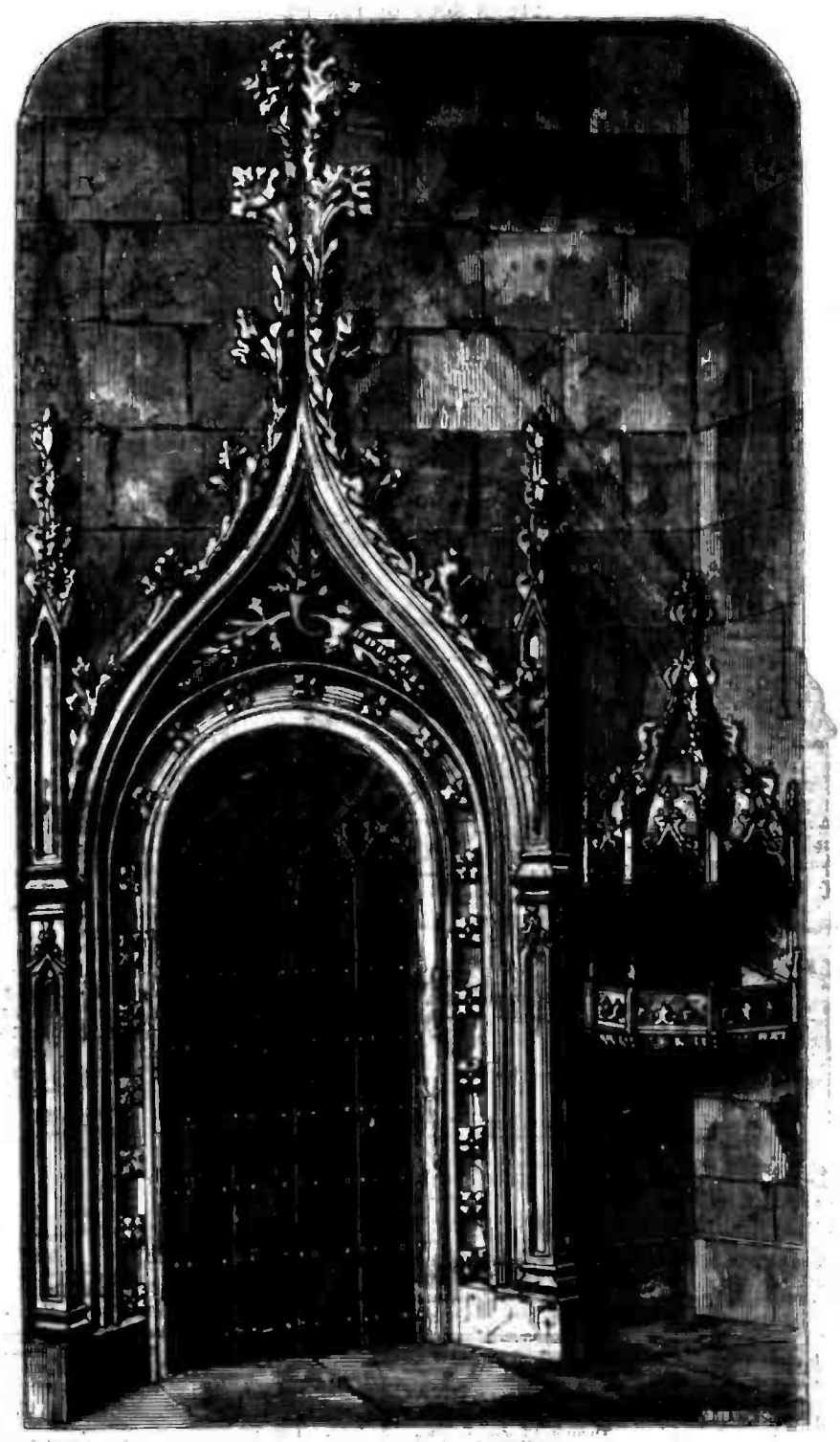
CLEEVE COURT: ANCIENT DOORWAY AND STOUP.



ANCIENT DOORWAY AND STOUP,

FORMERLY AT THE CHAPEL OF COURT DE WYCK.

These interesting relics, formerly belonging to a domestic chapel attached to the residence of the ancient family of De Wyck, now form the entrance, protected by an exterior porch, of Cleeve Court, the mansion of the Rev. J. S. Biddulph. The execution of both the doorway and holy-water basin is extremely good, especially that of the latter, which is a rich specimen of late decorated work: there is an appearance of foreign style about the architecture of the doorway, which is an extremely elegant composition.

In the title-page of John Rutter's delineations of part of Somersetshire, there is a very correct representation of the doorway, drawn by the Rev. J. S. Biddulph; from this small volume the following account of the old chapel and mansion is extracted:—The ancient residence "of Court de Wyck, is so named from the family of De Wyck, its ancient founders and possessors, who obtained their name from their early settlement at Wyck St. Laurence. The ruins were extensive till very lately; a few aged yews and elms alone remained of a noble avenue of trees which led to a large gateway, formed by two Doric columns, on which were the arms of Paulett and Popham impaled, opening to the grand court; on the left of it, towards the garden, stood the great hall; beyond, on the same side, were ruins of the great parlour, with its ancient chimney-piece and its compartments of grotesque figures and scrolls. The chapel occupied the south-west angle of the court, the entrance to which was beneath a deep-pointed arch, and in the porch was the receptacle for consecrated water; the chapel was small, and had only one large and lofty window to light it from the court; over the entrance was a small apartment with a window looking into the chapel, for the purpose of hearing mass; on the north side was a gallery, and beneath it, in the wall, was an elliptic arch, on the back of which were the arms of Newton, impaled with a lion rampant, hilletted, and at the north corner the arms of Chedder.

On this structure stood a small, quadrangular, open turret, which formerly contained a

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